

[5th February 1924]

Assessment.*Penal assessment in Coimbatore.*

59 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that penal assessments were levied from several ryots including one S. K. Sundaram Ayyar of Sular for alleged encroachments by them on certain lands, and that they protested against the collection of the said assessment and filed suits in the civil court against the District Collector and the Secretary of State;

(ii) whether the said assessment has been given up only this year; and if so, the reasons for the same; and

(iii) whether the Government would be prepared to make an inquiry into the matter and to pay adequate compensation in all reasonable cases?

A.—(i), (ii) & (iii) The Government have no information. A copy of the question will be communicated to the Collector who has got full powers to deal with the case.

Bench Courts.*Bench Courts in the Ramnad district.*

60 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of the Bench Courts introduced in the Ramnad district, and the nature of their working; and

(b) if their working has been satisfactory whether the Government have any proposals to establish such courts in other parts of the district also?

A.—(a) Twenty. The working of these courts is generally speaking satisfactory.

(b) A proposal to constitute a Bench of Magistrates for certain villages in the Tiruvadana taluk has just been sanctioned. There are no other proposals now before the Government.

Cabinet.*Distribution of portfolios among Members of the Cabinet.*

61 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the portfolios administered by the several Members of the Cabinet?

A.—The information is given on pages 1–2 of Volume XV—No. 1 of the Proceedings of this Council, dated 26th November 1923.

Civil Suit No. 527 of 1919.*The hon. Mr. Justice Coutts Trotter's judgment in C.S. No. 527 of 1919.*

62 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether on Mr. Justice Coutts Trotter's judgment in C.S. No. 527 of 1919 delivered on 15th March 1921, the attention of the Madras Government

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was drawn by the Government of India to the matter of engaging particular persons as special public prosecutors and whether the Government of Madras undertook to see that that practice was put an end to?

A.—No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Sir, may I ask as a supplementary question whether the hon. the Law Member's attention has been drawn to it? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Yes.”

Congress Office.

Trespass of Policemen into the Congress Office, Trichinopoly.

63 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact—

(a) that policemen trespassed into the Congress Office at Trichinopoly and removed the flags therefrom ; and

(b) that policemen trespassed into Mr. M. Singaravelu Chettiyar's house in Madras and removed the flags therefrom ;

(ii) if the answers to the above questions be in the affirmative—

(a) under whose orders the policemen acted ; and

(b) under what provisions of law such orders were issued ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask a question whether the Government will call for the information in view of the importance of the allegations made ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ They have done so.”

Court of Wards.

The Sivaganga zamindari.

64 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the present financial condition of the Sivaganga zamindari under the management of the Court of Wards is not satisfactory, and if so, why ;

(b) whether the Court of Wards has applied for any loan, and if so, the nature and the extent of the loan ; and

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to hand over the management of the zamindari to the direct management of the zamindar in the near future and if so, when ?

A.—(a) The estate is unencumbered and perfectly solvent but has taken a temporary loan from the Imperial Bank equivalent to about one-third of its annual income to finance work of permanent benefit to the estate and its tenants.

(b) The estate has applied for a Government loan of Rs. 5 lakhs, to complete the repayment of the loan mentioned above and its programme of work.

(c) The Government are not prepared to answer this question.